

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01375 250601Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01
AGRE-00 /110 W

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R 241501Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2750
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS PRAGUE 1375

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CH, CZ
SUBJ: PRC - CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE PROTOCOL

1. RUDE PRAVO OF MAY 20 REPORTS THAT CZECHOSLOVAK-CHINESE
TRADE WILL INCREASE BY SIX PERCENT IN 1977 OVER 1976 LEVELS
UNDER ANNUAL TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED IN PRAGUE MAY 19 BY
DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS MIROSLAV BURSA OF CSSR AND
CCHEN TIE OF PRC. PRESUMABLY INCREASE CITED WILL BE IN
TERMS OF VALUE, NOT VOLUME.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK EXPORTS WILL BE MAINLY MACHINE TOOLS,
TRUCKS, ROLLED MATERIALS AND DIESEL ENGINES. IMPORTS
FROM PRC WILL INCLUDE FOODSTUFFS, TEXTILES, RAW MATERIALS
FOR INDUSTRY, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, PORCELAIN, AND
PHARMACEUTICALS. TRADE HAS BEEN MODEST BUT GROWING OVER
PAST SEVERAL YEARS. TWO-WAY EXCHANGE IN 1975 WAS JUST
UNDER \$128 MILLION (CALCULATED AT 5.55 KCS PER U.S.
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DOLLAR), WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ENJOYING \$12 MILLION
BILATERAL SURPLUS. THIS FIGURE CONTRASTS WITH A 1974
TOTAL OF \$109 MILLION WHEN THE CHINESE HAD SURPLUS OF
\$13 MILLION. MAJOR EXPORT ITEMS IN THOSE YEARS WERE
MACHINERY AND ROAD VEHICLES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND
VARIOUS FOODSTUFFS FROM PRC.

3. COMMENT: RELATIVELY RESTRAINED PRESS TREATMENT AND
LOW-LEVEL OF SIGNING OFFICIALS REINFORCE OUR IMPRESSION
THAT GOC, LIKE ITS MENTORS IN MOSCOW, CONTINUE TO HOLD
CHINESE AT ARMS LENGTH WHILE DOING SOME BUSINESS AT GOVERNMENTAL
LEVEL. CZECHOSLOVAK-CHINESE TRADE VALUE WILL REMAIN WELL BELOW
LEVELS CSSR MAINTAINS WITH ITS EUROPEAN CEMA PARTNERS.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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